

HAER
ILL
16-CHIG,
125-

CHICAGO RIVER BASCULE BRIDGE,
GRAND AVENUE
Grand Avenue crossing North Branch of
the Chicago River
Chicago
Cook County
Illinois

HAER No. IL-139

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

CHICAGO RIVER BASCULE BRIDGE,
GRAND AVENUE
HAER No. IL-139

HAER
ILL
16-CHIG,
125-

Location: Grand Avenue crossing North Branch of the
Chicago River
Chicago, Cook County, Illinois

Date of
Construction: 1913

Present Owner: City of Chicago.

Present Use: Highway Bridge.

Significance: The Grand Avenue Bridge represents the
"second generation" of the Chicago bascule
bridge with improvements executed in the
design of the counterweights, a new rack-and-
pinion assembly (namely, the use of an
internal rack, instead of an external rack
that extended along the truss
superstructure's upper chords), and a steel
pony truss superstructure. (See Donald N.
Becker, "Development of the Chicago Type
Bascule Bridge," Transactions of the American
Society of Civil Engineers, v. 109 [1944],
1010-14.)

Historian: Gray Fitzsimons, 1987.

Project
Information: This photographic documentation project of
the bascule bridges crossing the Chicago
River was carried out by Jet Lowe, HAER staff
photographer, in 1987 and followed on the
heels of an inventory of historic engineering
and industrial sites in the Illinois and
Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor.
HAER historian Gray Fitzsimons was project
manager for this undertaking.